

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
January 10, 2011

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Keane seconded to approve the minutes of the December 29, 2010 Special meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the December 29, 2010 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Paterson asked for a moment of silence to remember those killed, those severely wounded, and those families trying to cope with the tragic shootings in Arizona. The Mayor offered a thank you to all who serve their government and a hope that a bipartisan effort to restore civility to the public discussion be undertaken.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Richard Pellegrine, Clover Mill Road, spoke to the rumors being circulated concerning the housing component of the Storrs Center project and relayed an episode which occurred during a similarly heated discussion on the use of the current Town Hall. Mr. Pellegrine stated that although a lively discussion of the issues is important, no Town official should have to take verbal or physical abuse from anyone.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, stated that he doesn't care if student housing is built in the Storrs Center project but he does object to the Town's money being spent. Mr. Hossack also objected to the Ethics Board membership proposal presented by the Committee on Committees.

Winifred Gordon, Charter Oak Square, commented that although she was somewhat swayed by the information presented at the December 9, 2010 public hearing on the Storrs Center project she still is concerned about the close vote of the PZC and the available supply of water. She encouraged the Council to rescind and renegotiate the agreement and bring it to a referendum.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, expressed concern about the resolution offered regarding the terms of appointment on the Ethics Board. Ms. Wassmundt asked if UConn has a signed agreement with EDR and asked that all developers make their agreements available to the public.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, spoke to the issue of fee waivers commenting that for the most part they are just another way to fund the Community Center with taxpayer money. He suggested the Community Center be either fully funded by the taxpayers or not at all.

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Carol Pellegrine, Clover Mill Road and Acting Chair of the Committee on Aging, asked the Council to consider making the fee waiver program applicable to the Senior Center Programs. Ms. Pellegrine expressed frustration with the ongoing large gatherings of students and asked what steps are being taken to charge the landowners for the cost of security.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to add the Storrs Center Agreement to the agenda under New Business.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Keane moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to make the Storrs Center Agreement the first item of business under New Business.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### IV. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Report attached.

Town Manager Matt Hart suggested the Council might want to schedule a reception to thank Probate Judge Claire Twerdy, State Representative Gregory Haddad, and Secretary of the State Denise Merrill for all their work on behalf of the Town of Mansfield.

#### V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Schaefer asked if the recent information regarding the community well system at Jensen's nullifies the DEP order currently in place. The Town Manager will investigate.

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Keane seconded to add the election of the Deputy Mayor to the agenda as an item of New Business.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schaefer reported that he will be absent for a number of meetings due to a planned surgery.

Ms. Moran distributed a letter which she plans to send to the Chronicle. The letter addresses Ms. Moran's reactions to a number of recent events including the transfer of power in the Congress, the tragic shootings in Arizona and angry comments made by a few members of the public regarding the recent vote on the Storrs Center Project and what these events say about America. (Letter attached)

#### VI. OLD BUSINESS

##### 1a. Storrs Center Agreement

Mayor Paterson welcomed Tom Trubiana of EDR who thanked the Council for their support for the development agreements and explained the miscommunication which led to the Storrs Center project being identified as student housing in the company's prospectus supplements. Mr. Trubiana apologized for the mistake and outlined the steps taken by EDR to rectify the problem. (Documents attached) He also clarified that EDR and UConn have signed no agreements and that the grants received by the Town require contributions which will be financed by EDR and repaid through the tax

abatements. EDR will be starting their marketing outreach in February at which time they will update the Council on their efforts.

1. Community/Campus Relations

Councilors Moran and Keane, members of the Community Quality of Life Committee, reported the Committee is exploring additional ordinances, ways to assist landlords with information such as lease wording options and venues that would help to increase the dialogue amongst tenants, landlords and neighbors. The Town Manager and staff will investigate additional legal remedies designed to hold landlords and tenants responsible for cost incurred by the Town.

2. FY 2010/11 Budget Review Calendar

Council members reviewed the Fiscal Year 2011/12 Budget Review Calendar.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

3. Terms of Appointment for Ethics Board Members

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, effective January 10, 2011, to approve the recommendations of the Committee on Committees regarding the terms of appointments to the Board of Ethics as outlined in this memo and the attached timeline.

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Committee on Committees, reiterated that the decision of the Committee had nothing to do with individual members of the Board but was an attempt to clarify the terms of office.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Budget/Salary Transfers for FY 2010/11

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective January 10, 2011 to approve the Budget/Salary Transfers for FY 2010/11, as presented by the Director of Finance in her correspondence dated December 14, 2010.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Fee Waiver Program

Director of Finance Cherie Trahan, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Jay O'Keefe and Administrative Service Manager Sherry Benoit outlined the guidelines and costs of the current fee waiver structure. Council members requested staff review the associated costs and amendments necessary to include the Senior Center Programs in the Fee Waiver Ordinance.

5a. Election of Deputy Mayor

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to nominate Antonia Moran as Deputy Mayor. Ms. Keane moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to nominate Meredith Lindsey as Deputy Mayor. Ms. Moran was elected Deputy Mayor.

VIII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

Mr. Ryan noticed an addition error in the Building and Housing Quarterly Report.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

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X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No reports

XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

6. J. Blanshard re: Transportation
7. Communications Advisory Committee re: IT Department Plan of Action
8. State of Connecticut Department of Public Health re: Ponde Place
9. UConn Students, Storrs Campus
10. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 12-23-10
11. Chronicle "Mansfield to utilize more solar panels" – 12-23-10
12. Chronicle "PZC hearing to focus on zoning regulation charges" – 12-24-10
13. Chronicle "Mansfield council postpones Storrs Center meeting" – 12-28-10
14. Chronicle "Stonemill Road residents must take detour" – 12-29-10
15. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 12-30-10
16. Chronicle "Mansfield looks at its plans for future" – 12-30-10
17. Chronicle "Town council to vote on project agreement" – 12-30-10
18. Chronicle "Family plans to file suit against UConn for death" – 1-4-11
19. Chronicle "Probate court changes take effect Wednesday" – 1-4-11
20. Chronicle "PZC OKs Storrs Center agreement in split vote" – 1-4-11
21. Hartford Courant "UConn Facing Lawsuit" – 1-1-11

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Ms. Moran requested a status report on efforts to improve the search function of the Town's website.

State Representative Gregory Haddad and State Senator Don Williams will be invited to the next Council meeting to discuss legislative issues. By consensus the Council agreed to host a reception for Judge of Probate Claire Twerdy, State Representative Gregory Haddad and Secretary of State Denise Merrill prior to the legislative update.

Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Keane seconded to recess as the Council and convene in Executive Session to discuss the sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6)(D). Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Keane seconded, following the first session, to continue in Executive Session to discuss Personnel, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6)(A). Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6) (D)

Present: Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart, Director of Planning Gregory Padick, Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien

Personnel, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6) (A)

Present: Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart, Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

The Town Council reconvened in regular session. Ms. Lindsey moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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